

**Town of Forest Heights
Council Work Session - 7:30 PM
Monday, October 7, 2019
Municipal Building
Meeting Minutes**

Call to Order: 7:32 PM

Roll Call: CM Barnes, CM Washington, CM Kennedy II, CW Noble, CW Mann, CW Hines, Mayor Muhammad present. Quorum established.

Moment of Silence

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Agenda: Motion by CM Kennedy II, seconded by CW Hines; all in favor; motion passed; motion by CM Washington to approve the concept agenda; seconded by CW Hines; all in favor; motion passed.

Public Annexation Hearing: Town Attorney Kevin Best discussed the details of Annexation Resolution 01-2019. It includes the annexation of the MD 210 right of way from the northern corporate border of the Town to the District of Columbia line. There are three tax exempt parcels: Parcels 4, 5, and 6 are owned by the Le Detroit Baptist Church. These and the other tax-exempt areas, such as the right of way owned by the State Highway Administration, can be annexed without permission from the property owner because they are tax exempt. This ruling was upheld by the Maryland Court of Appeals in *Town of Forest Heights v. Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission*. The land mass is 11.98 acres.

Public Questions about the Annexation Hearing

Mr. Quincy Hines asked if all the properties were tax exempt and if not, why would the Town want to annex it. The Town Attorney responded that they were all tax exempt. The reasons for annexation are to properly define corporate limits for the Town. The other reason would be that it would place speed cameras along a section of MD 210 in the jurisdiction of the Town.

Mrs. Jacqueline Goodall commended the Town for the annexation decision. She encouraged the Town to reach out to the commercial sector to develop.

CM Barnes asked if the Le Detroit Baptist Church has been approached. CW Mann had spoken to them and reported that they had asked for the benefits of being in the Town in the form of a letter.

CW Brownson asked how the annexation would impact the police department, if the increased acreage meant the need to hire more officers.

Mr. James Ware requested clarification on what was annexed.

Hearing for Annexation closed

Staff Reports:

Treasurer's Report: Status report of the Town's finances for the month of September 2019 were distributed to the Town Council.

Public Works: Mr. Vaughn explained that they would be trained for the tree boxes.

Circuit Rider: Mr. Stanley Mosley summarized the progress of the Census Grant. There will be a bus ride to the Smithsonian Museum of American History to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month on October 12. The Census Kick-Off will occur on Saturday, October 26. He has put in an application for the CDBG grant. It will go into the Town's stormwater infrastructure plan. Working with Pepco to have a charging station in the Municipal parking lot.

Code Enforcement: Status report for the month of September 2019 were distributed to the Town Council.

Ombudsman: Status report for the month of September 2019 were distributed to the Town Council.

Police Chief: Status report for the month of September 2019 were distributed to the Town Council.

Town Administrator: Status report for the month of September 2019 were distributed to the Town Council.

Council Reports:

Ward I: CM Barnes announced that the Neighborhood Watch meeting in September had 10-12 residents and invited any interested residents to attend.

Ward II:

Ward III: CW Hines is now certified with Maryland Municipal League. She announced the Haunted House on October 18 and 19 and Safe Harvest on October 19. CW Hines and CM Washington will be meeting with the principal of Forest Heights Elementary School to discuss alternative lunches provided to students who have outstanding lunch balances.

Mayor's Report: The Mayor thanked CM Kennedy II, CM Washington, CW Hines, and the volunteers for their work on the Halloween events.

Public Period

Mr. Quincy Hines asked if the Town could have a Thanksgiving dinner for those in need. He also stated that the Town should focus more on Black History Month.

Mrs. Margie Lampley wanted to know more about the Smithsonian trip on October 12. She also asked what the annexation entailed.

Mrs. Jacqueline Goodall asked how many people are using the newsletter stands. She was concerned that senior citizens did not have proper access to the newsletter.

Mr. James Ware thanked the Town for installing a speed bump. He reminded the citizens that there were two playgrounds available for use.

Ms. Christine Snow of Oxon Cove Park introduced herself.

Legislation:

Resolution 60-19 A Resolution to approve procurement and contract with Clear Security System for the retrofitting of certain areas of the Town Hall; to provide for and install security measures for employees and the general public; motion by CW Hines to waive the full reading; seconded by CM Washington; motion by CM Kennedy II to adopt Resolution 60-19; seconded by CW Hines; discussion; motion by CM Washington to approve with the condition factored on the upcoming asbestos report on the Municipal Building; seconded by CW Hines; vote (6) yes; (1) no; motion passed.

Resolution 61-19 A Resolution to amend and ratify Resolution 52-19 by adjusting the contract bid amount to award the contract to Fort Myer Construction Corporation for the following construction of a sidewalk along North Huron Drive; introduced by Mayor Muhammad; motion by CM Washington to waive the full reading; seconded by CM Kennedy II; motion by CM Kennedy II to adopt Resolution 61-19; seconded by CW Hines; discussion.

Resolution 62-19 A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Town of Forest Heights establishing the placement of traffic control devices along Shawnee and Sachem Drive in the Town of Forest Heights; introduced by CM Washington; motion by CM Kennedy II to waive the full reading; full reading by CM Washington; discussion; explanation by the Chief of Police establishing the need of directions for residents and emergency vehicles for parking via Sachem Lane.

Resolution 63-19 A Resolution to purchase 2016 fully equipped Dodge Charge Pursuit from Brooking industries, Inc and to purchase one used optic camera from MS Martin Enterprises Inc; introduced by Mayor Habeeb-Ullah Muhammad; motion by CM Washington to waive the full reading; seconded by CW Hines; discussion.

Resolution 64-19 Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Amendment; introduced by Mayor Habeeb-Ullah Muhammad; motion by CM Kennedy II to waive the full reading; seconded by CM Washington; discussion.

Resolution 65-19 Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Amendment; motion by CM Kennedy II to waive the full reading seconded by CM Washington; discussion.

Annexation Resolution 01-2019; A Resolution proposing the annexation of a portion of certain public highways and privately-owned (tax-exempt) lands (Tax map 96, Parcels 4, 5 & 6) including portions of Indian Head Highway (MD 210), adjoining service access roads, and a portion of Livingston Road into the Town of Forest Heights (The Eighth Extension); discussion on whether to table until the courtesy letter of explanation had been delivered to Le Detroit Baptist Church; motion by CM Kennedy II to adopt Annexation Resolution 01-2019; seconded by CM Washington; vote; (7) yes; (0) no; motion passed.

Ordinance 05-19 An ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the Town of Forest Heights, Maryland revising Article 13 (Nuisances, Morals and Conduct) of the Town Ordinance Code, by changing, adopting, amending, or re-adopting certain provisions of said article including adopting Revised Section 13.10 having a new catch phrase (pre-authorization of police and code enforcement officers to enforce trespass statutes on private property) to authorize the same; and by amending and readopting the prior section 13.10 as New Section 13.11 (Violations and Penalties) to provide alternative enforcement of same as a municipal infraction, and generally relating to nuisances, morals and conduct of persons located within the Town of Forest Heights; motion by CM Kennedy II to waive the full reading; seconded by CM Washington; all in favor; discussion; the ordinance allows the Forest Heights Police Department to enforce the state trespassing laws by entering into an agreement of the commercial property owners of the town, and give the police the power to remove individuals from commercial property. First Reading October 7, 2019.

New Business;

Closed Session- 9:50 PM; Motion by CM Kennedy II to enter a closed session; seconded by CW Hines; all in favor; motion passed.

FORM OF STATEMENT FOR CLOSING A MEETING

Location: Town of Forest Heights, Maryland

Date: October 7, 2019

Time: 9:50 p.m.

Vote to Close Session:	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Mayor Habeeb-Ullah Muhammad	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councilman Calvin Washington	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councilman Robert Barnes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councilwoman Cynthia Mann	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councilman Jonathon Kennedy II	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councilwoman Paula Noble	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councilwoman Taunya Hines	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

STATUTORY AUTHORITY TO CLOSE SESSION

State Government Article Section 10-508(a):

1. ☐ to discuss:

(i) The appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom the Town has jurisdiction.

(ii) Any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals.

7. ☐ To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice:

10. ☐ To discuss public security, if the public body determines that the public discussions would constitute a risk to the public or public security, including:

(i) the deployment of fire and police services and staff; and

(ii) the development and implementation of emergency plans.

Persons attending closed session: Mayor Muhammad, CM Barnes, CM Kennedy II, CW Noble, CW Hines, CM Washington, CW Mann, Mr. Robinson Town Administrator, Mrs. Hawkins Town Clerk, Town Attorney Kevin Best; Police Chief Rease; Attorney Traci Scudder and Mr. Eli Borek.

Council Work Session Adjournment 12:005am